



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

South Asia Earthquake

September 8, 2006 - Update



Headmaster Abdul Rashid, who teaches in his hometown of Rashang in the Allai Valley, has been able to resume classes thanks to USAID's reconstruction efforts.

CHILDREN RETURN TO THEIR SCHOOLS

Thanks to USAID, Headmaster Abdul Rashid was able to open his school to nearly 125 students from his home village of Rashang in the Allai Valley. The earthquake destroyed the previous school, which had been constructed of mud and stone.

The Rashang school building is one of 20 that USAID is constructing for the people of the Allai Valley. These seismic-resistant schools will allow the village children to study in comfort and safety. Having access to real school buildings has also encouraged families to send their daughters to school. Headmaster Rashid is teaching students English, Urdu, local and national history, math, and the sciences. "They must learn how to read," he commented between lessons. "Rashang and all of Allai need this; need these lessons and schools."

RECONSTRUCTION UPDATE IN DADAR

This October, the Government Centennial Model High School for Boys will reopen in Dadar village, rebuilt using earthquake-resistant construction techniques and fully furnished with classroom and laboratory equipment for 450 students. Scheduled to open later, the Dadar Girls Schools, just 500 yards up the road, will again be able to provide math, science, and English language classes for up to 270 girls.



USAID-funded construction team applying brick facing to the reinforced concrete beams and columns.



A view of the back of the eight classroom building for the Boy's Model High School.



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Earthquake Update Continued

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USAID-funded advisors train Army engineers in the principles of earthquake-resistant construction through field exercises.

USAID TRAINS ARMY ENGINEERS

Engineers trained in earthquake damage assessment by a USAID-funded program are now inspecting up to 20 homes a day in the cities of Muzaffarabad, Bagh and Rawalakot. Along with social workers and financial advisers, the assessment teams are evaluating damage and advising homeowners on how to access reconstruction funds provided by Pakistan's Earthquake Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Authority.

Based on initial damage assessments, each owner of a structurally damaged house will receive an initial payment of 75,000 (around 1,200 USD) rupees to start rebuilding. Homeowners will then receive an additional 75,000 rupees after they begin reconstruction, on the condition that they use earthquake resistant designs and building principles.

The USAID-program trained 45 Army engineers and 13 Housing Reconstruction Center staff in workshops held in August.

U.S. Agency for International Development
www.usaid.gov

FAST FACTS ON SOUTH ASIA EARTHQUAKE:

Government of Pakistan estimates:

Death toll: 73,338

Injured: 69,412

Government of India estimates :

Death toll: 1,309

Injured: 6,622

U.S. Assistance as of September 8, 2006:

Total U.S. Government Humanitarian and Reconstruction Assistance Pledged:
\$510,000,000

- \$300 million in economic assistance
- \$110 million in U.S. military in-kind support for relief operations
- at least \$100* million from U.S. private contributions

To date, USAID has provided more than \$87.4 million in humanitarian assistance, including more than \$6.5 million in emergency relief commodities and associated transport costs, for earthquake-affected populations in Pakistan and India.

As part of its overall response, USAID has provided more than \$33.7 million in funding to the U.N. South Asia Earthquake Flash Appeal, to support transitional shelter programs, food, health, water and sanitation, humanitarian air service, logistical coordination, and the transport of supplies to affected populations and movement of those populations to safe areas.

For more information on the earthquake and USAID's work, please see "South Asia Earthquake" at www.usaid.gov.

For information on giving visit:
www.safewinter.org

*Actual amount of donations to date is \$151.7 million (Center on Philanthropy, Indiana University)